

# LEADERSHIP

**Commander: Colonel Craig Wills**

**Vice Commander: Colonel Mark C. Anarumo**

**Command Chief: CMSgt Vegas Clark**



# MISSION - VISION

## **Mission:**

Provide global reach and global power for America.  
Deliver world-class logistical support, infrastructure and  
quality of life to US and NATO forces in Turkey.  
Enhance regional stability.

## **Vision:**

The greatest wing you'll ever be part of.  
The perfect base to send a first term Airman.  
Innovative Airmen who find a way to succeed.  
A close knit and supportive community.

# 39th Air Base Wing



**Emblem:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The group of flight symbols in formation suggests the precision with which the wing expounds six of the tenets of aerospace power: persistence, concentration, balance, synergy, priority, and centralized control. The seventh tenet of aerospace power which the unit exemplifies is flexibility and versatility as reflected by the arched bend.

**FIT, FOCUSED, READY**

Version 23 Mar 2015.

Cleared for public release by 39 ABW/PA.

# 39th Air Base Wing

The unit was established as the 39th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on November 20, 1940, and activated at Fort Douglas, Utah on January 15, 1941, and initially equipped with B-17 "Flying Fortress." Following training the unit was assigned to Geiger Field, Washington in July 1941. After the attack on Pearl Harbor the unit initially flew antisubmarine patrols along the Northwest Pacific coastline. In February 1942, the group was reassigned to Davis-Monthan Field, Arizona, where it served in various training capacities. With the end of heavy bomber training, the unit was inactivated April 1, 1944, and reactivated the same day at Smoky Hill Army Airfield, Kansas as a Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), flying B-29's, where it began training for deployment to the Pacific Theater. In January 1945, the air echelon deployed to Batista Army Airfield, Cuba for flying and bombing training. At the same time the ground echelon departed for Seattle, Washington for embarkation to Guam. Both elements of the unit rejoined at North Field, Guam in mid February 1945. The group conducted its first mission against the Japanese home islands in April 1945, supporting the allied invasion of Okinawa by attacking airfields that served as bases for kamikaze pilots. From mid-May 1945 until the end of the war the group bombed military and industrial targets in Japan, also participating in incendiary raids on urban areas. Between November and December 1945 the group moved to Camp Anza, California, where it was inactivated on December 27, 1945.

On December 1, 1958 the Strategic Air Command (SAC) established the 4135th Strategic Wing at Eglin AFB, Florida. The wing became fully organized in July 1959. Half of the wing's aircraft were maintained on fifteen-minute alert, fully fueled, armed and ready for combat. The wing also conducted final testing of the GAM-77 Hound Dog and GAM-72 Quail air-launched cruise missiles. In 1962 SAC received permission to discontinue its strategic wings. The 4135th was replaced by the 39th Bombardment Wing, Heavy on February 1, 1963. The 39th Bombardment Wing, Heavy was inactivated June 25, 1965.

The 39th Bombardment Group was redesignated 39th Tactical Group and activated on April 1, 1966 at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The group controlled permanent support units and deployed weapon training detachments within Turkey. On January 31 1984 in response to an Air Force wide reorganization the 39th Tactical Group and the 39th Bombardment Wing, Heavy consolidated under the 39th Tactical Group until redesignated as the 39th Wing October 1, 1993. It was redesignated the 39th Air Base Group on July 6, 2003, and become a wing again March 12, 2004.

## INCIRLIK AIR BASE TIMELINE

1951 - Construction began on new U.S. Air Force Base located approximately 250 miles southeast of Ankara, Turkey.

1954 -The Turkish General Staff and U.S. Air Force signed a joint use agreement for the new base in December.

1955 - The base was officially named Adana Air Base February 21.

1957-1960 The base supported U-2 operations.

1958- The base was renamed Incirlik Air Base February 28.

1975-Turkish government announced all U.S. bases in Turkey would close and transfer control to the Turkish military. Due to its NATO mission Incirlik stayed open, however all non-NATO activities ceased.

1978-U.S. Congress lifted the arms embargo in September, and restored military assistance to Turkey.

1980-Normal operations resumed at Incirlik after the United States and Turkey signed a Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement on March 29.

1991-1995-During Operation DESERT STORM the 7440th Composite Wing (provisional) assumed operational control of Incirlik Air Base.

1991-1996-Incirlik hosted Combined Task Force Provide Comfort.

1997-2003-Operation NORTHERN WATCH operated from Incirlik.

2003- The first rotation of deployed KC-135's and Airmen arrive to support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

2011- Supported deployment of Ballistic Missile Defense assets to Turkey.

2012-Unarmed MQ-1 Predators deployed to Incirlik to support Turkey's counter-terrorism efforts and to enhance regional stability.

2013-Supported deployment of NATO Patriot assets from Holland, Germany and U.S. to Turkey.

